



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a press conference at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. 14-Party organised the press conference.

## Help alleviate poverty

### President urges youths

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the youth to come up with a resolve to help alleviate poverty from society by implementing various programmes initiated by the government, NGOs and development partners.

"It's my conviction that the will, merit, skill, creativity and work spirit of the youth will play a key role in building a poverty-free Bangladesh," he said while addressing the inaugural function of the National Youth Day-2005 at Shilpakala Academy in the city.

Iajuddin said the youths have huge potentials, which have to be used for the development of the country and the nation.

"The youth will have to be awakened with the mantras of sense of responsibility, confidence, discipline and social values. Proper education, training,

guidance and employment opportunities are needed for that," he said.

He said time has come today to find out a field of alternative jobs and "we'll have to look at rural areas instead of urban-based search for jobs."

"Every village of the country will be a hub of works for which we need to use the lands and water bodies available there as weapons of employment," he told his audience, including youths.

Iajuddin also distributed prizes among 16 successful self-employed youths and cheques of grant among 10 youth organisers.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman MP and Secretary of Youth

and Sports Dr Abul Kashem Mahbubul Alam also spoke on the occasion.

## Mugger lynched in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mob beat up two muggers, leaving one of them dead, as they along with several others tried to rob a former UP chairman of his motorcycle on Wednesday night.

Police said a gang of five or seven muggers intercepted former Silimpur union chairman Hasmat Ali at Baruha when he was returning home from Delduar by a motorcycle at about 9:00pm.

As the gang tried to take away his motorcycle and other valuables, Hasmat raised an alarm, prompting local people to rush to his aid.

They caught hold two of the muggers and beat them up, but the others managed to escape. One of the muggers died on the spot, but his identity could not be known immedi-

ately. Tangail Sadar police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

His accomplice Madhab Chandra Rajbangshi of Kaliakoir, Gazipur, was injured seriously and later admitted to Tangail General Hospital under police guard.

## US mission closed on Jan 1

US Embassy offices, including The American Centre, Archer K Blood American Centre Library and the Student Advising Centre, will remain closed on January 1 on the occasion of New Year's Day, says a US Embassy release.